

INFORMATION REPORT

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- 25X1A. [] thus far in the US I have not become sufficiently familiar with advanced scientific education to be able to make an accurate comparison of its requirements for degrees with those in the USSR. The differences between the two, however, are sufficiently obvious to permit me to make a few general remarks. I should also like to say that since [] profession my statements will naturally have particular reference to education in that field. Nevertheless, I do not believe that requirements in other branches of scientific study are markedly different. The applicant for medical school must have completed successfully 10 years of Gymnasium. His actual medical school course is of five years duration, but I believe many of the subjects in the curriculum are given in the US in the pre-medical college course. Upon completion of this course the student must pass an examination prepared by the government before he is awarded the diploma from Medical School which permits him to practice as a doctor. If upon receiving his diploma a man wishes to pursue his studies further and to specialize in a given field, say physiology, he applies to the professor, or head of the department, in that subject and upon being accepted becomes an "aspirant". In this status he is a working assistant to the professor and might be compared to a resident in a US hospital, except that his degree of doctor would not have the same connotation it bears in the US. The "aspirant" must work as such for a minimum of three years, at the end of which period he must present a thesis and defend it before a board of examiners. If successful in passing through the "aspirant" phase, and he desires to go further he becomes a "kandidat", in which position he is a sort of assistant professor. The duration of this period is indefinite and depends upon several factors, including the importance of his specialty, the results of his research, his published writings and his political standing. To achieve the degree of "doktor" he must have published writings of importance and defend them successfully before a board of examiners. Only holders of the degree of "doktor" are full professors and as the number is less than in the US I should

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say that the degree in itself has more significance than it does in this country.

2. Q. Is the average holder of the Soviet degree of "kandidat" essentially equal in experience, formal training, knowledge, and research achievement to the US "master's" degree recipient or to the holder of a US doctorate? If equivalent to neither, about where between the two US degrees would the Soviet "kandidat" be properly placed?
- A. It is my opinion that the Soviet degree of "kandidat" would be most nearly equivalent of the US doctor's degree. A Soviet man of science is regarded as a prodigy if he achieves the degree of "doktor" before reaching the age of 30. Generally he is 40 or 45 years old before he receives this award. His political standing is always taken into consideration as he progresses in his work. Indeed, a man of science in the USSR must also be a member of the Communist Party in good standing if he expects to receive recognition or to be promoted in his special field. It is further to be noted that political influence can cause a scientist to advance rapidly, and most of the "boy wonders" who receive the degree of "doktor" at a comparatively early age are related to or connected with influential Party dignitaries. I do not mean to imply that political importance is the sole qualification for scientific rewards, because the prestige of a "doktor" is very great. Aside from political considerations, however, and judging from the amount of study and research he is required to do, I believe I am justified in assuming that a Soviet "kandidat" is essentially equivalent to a US "doctor."
3. Q. If the Soviet "kandidat" is judged to be essentially equivalent to the US doctorate, then with approximately how prominent and experienced a US scientist would the Soviet "doktor" be equivalent?
- A. It is impossible to give a categorical reply to this question, because fields of study differ so widely. Nevertheless, since the Soviet "doktor" is generally middle-aged before receiving his degree it might be assumed that in general he would be equivalent to a US Ph D or MD with at least 15 years experience, and also one who had received a fair amount of recognition for his writings and research. The prestige of a Soviet "doktor" depends, for one thing, on the length of time he spent as a "kandidat" and his accomplishments during that period. It depends further on the field of his endeavors. For example, a man who receives his doctorate in history or another of the social sciences cannot be compared with one who is doing research in the more difficult aspects of physics or physiology.

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